

ENROLLMENT IN UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

In the United States and the other six countries presented, the large majority of 17-year-olds who were still in school were enrolled in upper secondary education in 1999. Eighty-one percent of 17-year-olds in the United States were enrolled in upper secondary education and only 1 percent was enrolled in higher education. Canada was the only country presented in which over 3 percent of 17-year-olds were already enrolled in higher education (figure 11).

With an upper secondary enrollment rate of 81 percent among 17-year-olds, the United States ranked 4th among the countries presented on this indicator, behind Japan, Germany, and France, which had upper secondary enrollment rates of 94, 92, and 89 percent, respectively, for this age. A higher proportion of

17-year-olds were enrolled in upper secondary education in the United States than in Canada (75 percent), the United Kingdom (71 percent), and Italy (73 percent).

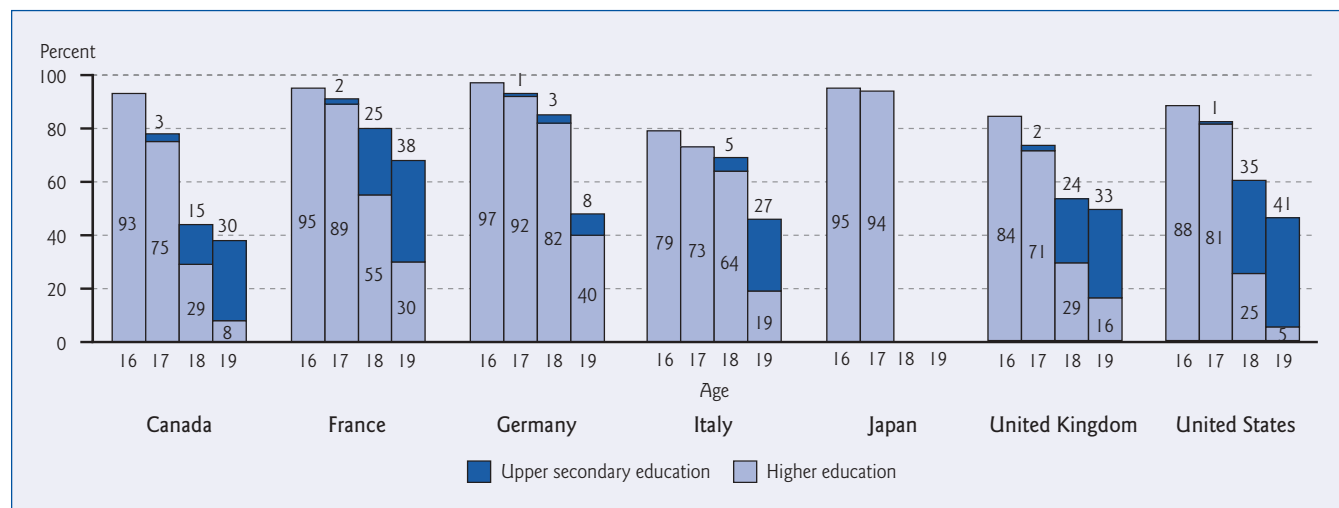
While most 17-year-olds in the United States are still enrolled in upper secondary education, upper secondary enrollment drops off sharply after age 17, as most 18- and 19-year-olds who are still in school have already started higher education. In 1999, 25 percent of 18-year-olds in the United States were still enrolled in upper secondary education, while 35 percent were enrolled in higher education. In Germany and Italy, in contrast, 82 and 64 percent of 18-year-olds, respectively, were still enrolled in upper secondary education.

Definition and Methodology

The percentage of the population at given ages enrolled in education is called an “enrollment rate” in international comparisons. In this indicator, the term “enrollment rate” refers to “net enrollment rate.” Net enrollment rate is defined as the number of students in a particular age group enrolled in education divided by

the population of that same age group. Enrollments include all full-time and part-time students in public and private upper secondary education, age 17 in 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999 and students in public and private upper secondary education and higher education, ages 16, 17, 18, and 19 in 1999.

Figure 11. Percentage of the population ages 16 to 19 enrolled in public and private upper secondary and higher education, by selected age and country: 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Higher education enrollment rates not available for: 16-year-olds in all countries; 17-year-olds in Italy and Japan; 18- and 19-year-olds in Japan. Upper secondary enrollment rates not available for 18- and 19-year-olds in Japan.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table C 1.3.

Enrollment in Upper Secondary Education – Data Tables

Table A-11a. Percentage of the population ages 16 to 19 enrolled in public and private upper secondary education, by selected age and country: 1999

Country	Age			
	16	17	18	19
Canada	93	75	29	8
France	95	89	55	30
Germany	97	92	82	40
Italy	79	73	64	19
Japan	95	94	—	—
United Kingdom	84	71	29	16
United States	88	81	25	5

— Data not available or missing.

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table C 1.3.

Table A-11b. Percentage of the population ages 16 to 19 enrolled in public and private upper secondary and higher education, by selected age and country: 1999

Country	Age			
	16	17	18	19
Canada	93	78	44	38
France	95	91	80	68
Germany	97	93	85	48
Italy	79	73	69	46
Japan	95	94	—	—
United Kingdom	84	73	53	49
United States	88	82	60	46

— Data not available or missing.

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table C 1.3.

Table A-11c. Percentage of the population ages 16 to 19 enrolled in public and private higher education, by selected age and country: 1999

Country	Age			
	16	17	18	19
Canada	—	3	15	30
France	—	2	25	38
Germany	—	1	3	8
Italy	—	—	5	27
Japan	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom	—	2	24	33
United States	—	1	35	41

— Data not available or missing.

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table C 1.3.